

LAINÉ et al  
Serial No. **Unknown**

**REMARKS**

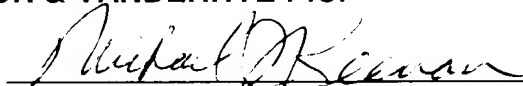
Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version with markings to show changes made.**"

The above amendments are made to place the claims in a more traditional format.

Respectfully submitted,

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**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

2. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, characterized in that pulp is taken into said pre-thickener [(10)] from a screen [(2)], the screening consistency of which is about 2 – 4 %.

3. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, characterized in that the pulp thickened by the prethickener [(10)] is taken into a filter [(4)], the feeding consistency of which is 3 – 6 %.

4. (Amended) A method according to claim 2 [and 3], characterized in that between the screen [(2)] and the filter [(4)] the consistency of the pulp is raised by said pre-thickener [(10)] by 1 – 4 %.

14. (Amended) A method according to claim 9, [11, 12 or 13,] characterized in that said regulation is controlled by maintaining a constant pressure difference over the filter surface.

20. (Amended) An apparatus for treating pulp, which apparatus [(10)] comprises an essentially elongated outer casing [(12)], the first end of which is closed with an end plate [(14)]; at the first end of which casing there is arranged an inlet conduit [(18)] for the fiber suspension to be treated  $P_{in}$ ; the other end of which casing is closed with an end plate [(16)]; at said other end of which casing there is arranged a discharge conduit [(20)] for the thickened fiber suspension  $P_{out}$  being discharged from the apparatus; which casing [(12)] is provided with a discharge conduit [(26)] for the filtrate  $F_{out}$ ; inside which casing [(12)] essentially at least between the inlet conduit [(18)] and the discharge conduit [(20)] there is arranged a filter surface [(22)] having a preferably round cross

section and arranged inside it a cleaning member comprising a rotating shaft [(30)], on which shaft at least one screw thread [(32)] is fixed for keeping the filter surface [(22)] clean, characterized in that the discharge conduits [(20; 26)] for the thickened pulp and the filtrate are provided with valves [(40; 46)] for controlling the operation of the pre-thickener.

21. (Amended) An apparatus according to claim 20, characterized in that said valves are controlled according to the input power of the shaft [(30)], on the basis of an impulse from a previous process stage or pressure difference prevailing over the filter surface.

22. (Amended) An apparatus according to claim 20, characterized in that the screw thread [(32)] is fixed on the shaft [(30)] by means of tie rods which leave a free space between the shaft and the screw thread.

23. (Amended) An apparatus according to claim 22, characterized in that the clearance of the screw thread [(32)] from the filter surface [(22)] is less than 5 mm.

24. (Amended) An apparatus according to claim 22, characterized in that the clearance of the screw thread [(32)] from the filter surface [(22)] is less than 3 mm and suitably 0.2 – 2 mm.

25. (Amended) An apparatus according to claim 22, characterized in that the screening surface [(22)] is provided with essentially axial grooves or corresponding guides which prevent the fiber mat from rotating inside the filter surface [(22)].